

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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MAJOR GENERAL JOHN PAUL McCONNELL, USAF

Director
Aerospace Studies
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John Paul McConnell was born at Booneville, Arkansas, February 7, 1908. He was graduated from Henderson-Brown College at Arkadelphia, Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1927. He was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy in 1928, and was graduated June 10, 1932, and commissioned a second lieutenant of Field Artillery in the Regular Army.

In July, 1932, General McConnell entered the Air Corps Primary Flying School at Randolph Field, Texas, and was graduated in 1933. He then went to Kelly Field, Texas, for advanced training, graduating from the Air Corps Advanced Flying School in October, 1933. He then joined the 79th Pursuit Squadron at Barksdale Field, Louisiana, and served as squadron adjutant. Later he became group adjutant and radio officer of the 20th Pursuit Group at the same post. On February 16, 1934, he was transferred to the Air Corps.

General McConnell joined the 50th Observation Squadron at Luke Field, Hawaii, in June, 1937, as supply officer and adjutant, and in November of that year became post and group adjutant of the Fifth Bombardment Group at Luke Field. He later moved to Hickam Field, Hawaii, as post and group adjutant of the Fifth Bombardment Group.

In June, 1939, General McConnell was appointed assistant squadron engineering officer of the 91st School Squadron at Maxwell Field, Alabama. A month later he moved to Eglin Field, Florida, where he served as post adjutant until January, 1940, when he returned to Maxwell Field as assistant post adjutant. In July, 1940, he became adjutant of the Southeast Air Corps Training Center, with station at Maxwell Field, and a few months later assumed additional duties as aide to Brigadier General W. R. Weaver.

General McConnell was transferred to the Office, Chief of Air Force in January, 1942, where he served as assistant executive to the Acting Chief until May, 1942. He then became deputy chief of staff at headquarters, AAF Technical Training Command, and was later appointed chief of staff of that command. In August, 1943, he was made deputy chief of staff at Headquarters, AAF Training Command, at Fort Worth, Texas.

In November, 1943, General McConnell became Chief of Staff, China-Burma-India Air Force Training Command (Provisional) at Karachi, India. He served there until February, 1944, when he was transferred to the Third Tactical Air Force in the China-Burma-India theater of operations as the senior air staff officer. In April, 1944, he was designated deputy commander to Sir John E. A. Baldwin, RAF Air Marshal in command of the Third Tactical Air Force, the integrated USAAF-RAF organization. In July, 1944, he was assigned to the Southeast Asia Air Command, the senior air force headquarters under the command of Admiral Mountbatten, and served as Senior Air Staff Officer until June, 1945.

Upon the fall of Rangoon, USAAF headquarters in the India-Burma theater was transferred to China to amalgamate the 10th and 14th Air Forces in the offensive against the Japanese, and General McConnell was transferred to USAAF headquarters there. He served as chief of staff until the AAF in China were inactivated. In March, 1946, the Air Division, Nanking Headquarters Command, was activated and he was assigned to command it and to also assume the duties of Senior Air Advisor to the Chinese Government.

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In June, 1947, General McConnell was assigned to Air Force headquarters in Washington. The following month he was appointed chief of the Reserve and National Guard Division of the Air Force, and in May, 1948, was named chief of the Civilian Components Group at Air Force headquarters. In December, 1948, he became Deputy Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force, for Reserve Forces.

In July, 1950, General McConnell became Chief of Staff of the Third Air Division in Middlesex, England. In May, 1951, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, announced that the Third Division had been elevated to the Third Air Force, and General McConnell retained his position as chief of staff. Later that month, General McConnell assumed command of the Seventh Air Division in the United Kingdom.

General McConnell has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, and Air Medal.

His foreign decorations include the Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and the Chinese General Citation Medal, Tashour Cloud Banner, Lo Shou Medal and Air Force Pilot's Wings.

He is rated a Command Pilot.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (temporary) April 20, 1935; to first lieutenant (permanent) August 1, 1935; to captain (temporary) September 9, 1940; to major (temporary) July 15, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) January 23, 1942; to captain (permanent) June 10, 1942; to colonel (temporary) December 22, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) August 15, 1944; to colonel (permanent) April 2, 1948; to major general (temporary) December 22, 1950, with date of rank from December 3, 1950.

E N D

Up to date as of 28 May 1951